

**Remarks of Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo**  
Postal Service Day of Action  
August 18, 2020

The Postal Service is a pillar of our democracy.

It is older than the country itself. The Continental Congress made Benjamin Franklin the first Postmaster General in 1775 and it remains the most popular agency in the federal government, beloved and trusted by all Americans. The timely delivery of mail was so important to the Framers that they expressly included it in the Constitution, one of the few agencies explicitly enshrined with the courts and the armed forces.

Throughout American history, the Postal Service has been a critical part of our nation's infrastructure, with millions of Americans receiving their Social Security or Disability checks, bills, tax returns, and prescription drugs through this service. It employs approximately 100,000 veterans and on any given day, it delivers more than 425 million pieces of mail.

Linda Baxter, a constituent in Campbell, depends on the Postal Service for her chemotherapy medication. She told me that last week's shipment made her sweat because she didn't know if it would arrive in time because of service delays.

David Erickson, a veteran relies on USPS for his heart medication and the prescriptions for his wife Karyl, yet he goes entire days without receiving any mail now.

For 34 years, Deborah Goldeen in Palo Alto had never gone a day without mail, and in July she didn't receive any for three straight days.

And in the exact words of my constituent Diana Garrett of Scotts Valley: "Please count me as a constituent who values the USPS because it is a vital communication link to rural and non-digital households". She uses the Postal Service to vote by mail, to communicate with friends and family, to receive essential packages during COVID-19 and to receive her medications.

This fall, the Postal Service will have another task that is vital to our democracy: ensuring the timely delivery of millions of absentee ballots for the general election during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A record 75 percent of Americans will be eligible to vote by mail this year, and every eligible voter in California will receive an absentee ballot in the mail.

Since the start of the pandemic, House Democrats recognized the importance of the Postal Service and provided \$10 billion in the CARES Act in March to shore up its operations. The Postal Service Board of Governors (four Republicans and 2 Democrats, all Trump appointees) requested \$25 billion from Congress, but the President threatened to veto the bill if \$25 billion was included.

Thirteen weeks ago, the House passed the HEROES Act which included \$25 billion for the Postal Service. Last week, President Trump made clear why he opposes this funding when he said: "They want \$25 billion, for the Post Office. Now, they need that money in order to make

the Post Office work so it can take all of these millions and millions of ballots. But if they don't get those two items that means you can't have universal mail-in voting because they're not equipped to have it.”

Last month, as the President was blocking vital funding for the Postal Service, and consistently attacking mail-in ballots, he appointed Louis DeJoy, a megadonor to his campaign, as Postmaster General who immediately set out to dismantle the agency he was appointed to lead.

He manufactured delays in delivering the mail by reducing overtime, deprioritizing election mail, restricting the number of deliveries letter carriers can make, removing sophisticated sorting equipment, and in several states, the actual removal of mail boxes, stacking them in trucks and hauling them away.

These attacks are an assault on our democracy. The Postal Service is now a national emergency and an election theft in progress.

I will return to Washington this week to vote for the *Delivering for America Act*, emergency legislation to address the sabotage of the Postal Service. The bill requires that the same standards of service be maintained that were in place prior to the pandemic, and it specifically prohibits:

- Any change in the nature of nationwide postal services;
- Any revision of service standards;
- Any closure of post offices or reduction in hours
- Any prohibition of overtime pay;
- Any changes that would prevent the Postal Service from meeting its mail standards; and
- Any changes that would delay mail or increase the amount of undelivered mail.

The bill includes \$25 billion in funding to ensure the Postal Service can operate fully during the pandemic and process the delivery of millions of ballots this fall. I believe the bill will pass with bipartisan support.

Our democracy has been a beacon of light across the world. Americans have given their very lives to protect it and Americans have also given their lives to be able to vote. Now in our day and time, we cannot allow our democracy to be hijacked by those who boast in broad daylight of their disregard of a revered institution which was placed in our Constitution by the framers. The Postal Service enjoys the fullest confidence of the American people, with the exception of those that wish to destroy it, along with our democracy, and we will not allow this to stand.